



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476

(215) 861-8200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2003

**THIRTEEN MEMBERS OF READING DRUG RING INDICTED – THIRD
MAJOR DRUG ORGANIZATION CHARGED IN BERKS COUNTY
UNDER *PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS***

READING – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan, Berks County District Attorney Mark Baldwin, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Philadelphia Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Jeffrey Lampinski, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Philadelphia Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms, and Explosives, Mark Potter, and Reading Chief of Police, Charles Broad, today announced the unsealing of a twenty-count indictment¹ charging 13 defendants with operating a major drug ring, the "TENTH STREET GANG", centered in Reading, Pennsylvania. Each of the defendants is charged in the indictment with conspiracy to distribute in excess of 50 grams of "crack" cocaine that subjects each defendant to a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, a ten year mandatory minimum, a \$4,000,000 fine, and up to lifetime supervised release on this count alone.

"This was a violent, well-armed organization that would simply change locations when police were closing in," said Meehan. "Our ability under *Project Safe Neighborhoods* to unite federal, state, and local law enforcement is having a profound impact on our communities by removing violent offenders from our streets. It also demonstrates our commitment to targeting entire organizations and not just individual offenders."

The indictment specifically alleges that between January of 2002 and October of 2003, PEREZ and ACEVEDO controlled the 10TH ST. GANG that distributed more than \$3,000,000 of crack cocaine from at least ten locations in the southeast section of Reading. MANUEL PEREZ and his son, MIGUEL ACEVEDO-HERNANDEZ, purchased large amounts of crack cocaine from suppliers in the Reading and New York City areas, which they and co-defendants, JOSE MIGUEL ACEVEDO, JONATHAN ACEVEDO, FERNANDO PENA, ANGEL CASTILLO-BIENVENIDO, JR., MUSTAFA SHERIFF, ANDRE KEYES, ANDREW ANTHONY CRUZ, CALVIN GOODRICH, TERRENCE MAY, WILFREDO ORTIZ, LYDIA CARRERA-APONTE distributed to wholesale and retail customers in the Reading area. Each time police raided one of the 10TH ST. GANG crack houses, the organization found new sellers and took over a new crack house in a different location where crack cocaine was sold. Members of the 10TH ST. GANG routinely carried firearms and wore bullet proof vests to protect their operation from

¹ An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

competing drug dealers. Nine firearms and seven bulletproof vests were seized from members of the conspiracy from locations controlled by the Tenth Street Gang. Members of the gang also used cell phones and two-way radios to communicate among themselves.

The defendants charged include:

MANUEL PEREZ,
a/k/a "Benji"
MIGUEL ACEVEDO-HERNANDEZ,
a/k/a "Spaz"
JOSE MIGUEL ACEVEDO,
a/k/a "Gulley"
JONATHAN ACEVEDO,
a/k/a "Flip"
FERNANDO PENA,
a/k/a "Majestic"
ANGEL CASTILLO-BIENVENIDO, JR.,
a/k/a "MX"
MUSTAFA SHERIFF,
a/k/a "Stafa"
ANDRE KEYES,
a/k/a "Dre"
a/k/a "Doo-Drop"
ANDREW ANTHONY CRUZ,
a/k/a "Andy"
CALVIN GOODRICH,
a/k/a "CJ"
TERRENCE MAY,
a/k/a Tariq Billups,
a/k/a "Gotti"
WILFREDO ORTIZ,
a/k/a "Will"
LYDIA CARRERA-APONTE

This is the third indictment of a major drug organization in Berks County since the inception of Project Safe Neighborhoods in 2002. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint initiative by the United States Attorney's Office, the Berks County District Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Reading Police Department, the Berks County Sheriffs Department, and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction. This investigation was initiated by the F.B.I. led Reading Area Violent Crime Task Force (RAVCTF). The RAVCTF, comprised of the above agencies, was established to assist local law enforcement agencies in Berks County in combating violent crime, and has been targeting violence associated with gangs and drugs.

The Pennsylvania National Guard Counter-Drug Program provided both personnel and equipment to aid in the investigation that lead to this indictment

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
MANUEL PEREZ, a/k/a "Benji"	35 S. 10 th Street, Reading, PA 19602	9/22/1966
MIGUEL ACEVEDO- HERNANDEZ, a/k/a "Spaz"	531 Locust Street, Reading, PA 19604	12/13/1981
JOSE MIGUEL ACEVEDO, a/k/a "Gulley"	35 S 10 th Street, Reading, PA 19602	9/22/1984
JONATHAN ACEVEDO, a/k/a "Flip"	35 S 10 th Street, Reading, PA 19602	10/12/1985
FERNANDO PENA, a/k/a "Majestic"	1401 Cotton Street, Reading, PA 19602	02/01/1979
ANGEL CASTILLO- BIENVENIDO, JR., a/k/a "MX"	629 Bingaman Street, Reading, PA 19601	1/9/1984
MUSTAFA SHERIFF, a/k/a "Stafa"	234 N. 5 th Street, Reading, PA 19602	4/13/1981
ANDRE KEYES, a/k/a "Dre" a/k/a "Doo-Drop"	113 N 9 th Street, Reading, PA 19602	11/13/1983
ANDREW ANTHONY CRUZ, a/k/a "Andy"	201 N. 10th Street, Reading, PA 19602	03/06/1979
CALVIN GOODRICH, a/k/a "CJ"	501 Greenwich Street, Reading, PA 19601	11/10/1983
TERRENCE MAY, a/k/a Tariq Billups, a/k/a "Gotti"	310 S. 10th Street, Reading, PA 19601	10/26/1983
WILFREDO ORTIZ, a/k/a "Will"	1040 Spruce Street, Reading, PA 19601	10/26/1983
LYDIA CARRERA- APONTE	909 Cherry Street, Reading, PA 19601	01/25/1983

A detailed description of the potential sentences is attached.

The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Francis C. Barbieri, Jr., and Special Assistant United States Attorney M. Theresa Johnson.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: RICHARD MANIERI
PRESS OFFICER
215-861-8525**

***COPIES OF NEWS MEMOS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT
[HTTP://WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USA0/PAE](http://www.usdoj.gov/usa0/pae)***

NAME	MAXIMUM SENTENCE
MANUEL PEREZ, a/k/a “Benji”	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment, a \$40,000,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of eight years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$1700 special assessment
MIGUEL ACEVEDO-HERNANDEZ, a/k/a “Spaz”	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment, a \$40,000,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of eight years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$1700 special assessment
JOSE MIGUEL ACEVEDO, a/k/a “Gulley”	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment, a \$7,000,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of six years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$300 special assessment
JONATHAN ACEVEDO, a/k/a “Flip”	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment, a \$7,000,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of six years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$300 special assessment
FERNANDO PENA, a/k/a “Majestic”	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment, a \$4,000,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of five years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$100 special assessment
ANGEL CASTILLO-BIENVENIDO, JR., a/k/a “MX”	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment, a \$10,000,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of eight years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$300 special assessment
MUSTAFA SHERIFF, a/k/a “Stafa”	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 15 years imprisonment, a \$8,250,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of six years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$700 special assessment
ANDRE KEYES, a/k/a “Dre” a/k/a “Doo-Drop”	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 15 years imprisonment, a \$24,250,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of eight years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$900 special assessment
ANDREW ANTHONY CRUZ, a/k/a “Andy”	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 15 years imprisonment, a \$22,250,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of eight years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$1200 special assessment

NAME	MAXIMUM SENTENCE
CALVIN GOODRICH, a/k/a "CJ"	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment, a \$10,000,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of eight years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$300 special assessment
TERRENCE MAY, a/k/a Tariq Billups, a/k/a "Gotti"	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment, a \$4,000,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of five years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$100 special assessment
WILFREDO ORTIZ, a/k/a "Will"	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment, a \$10,000,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of eight years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$300 special assessment
LYDIA CARRERA- APONTE	Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment, a \$10,000,000 fine, a mandatory minimum of eight years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release, a \$300 special assessment